

STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE

Centre for Child Protection



Shaping the future of safeguarding through
world-leading research, training, and innovation.





By far the best and
most thought provoking
Prevent training I
have ever attended.
Very engaging and
informative.



Training delegate,
Behind Closed Doors
October 2025



Centre for Child Protection

Redefining how professionals learn to safeguard children.

The Centre for Child Protection at the University of Kent is an internationally recognised, multi award-winning centre for innovative, research-informed child protection education, training and research, redefining how professionals learn to safeguard children.

Our work brings together expertise from social work, policing, education, law, the third sector, and international safeguarding contexts. We equip professionals with the skills, knowledge, and critical perspective needed to respond to today's most complex safeguarding challenges.

Whether you are looking for immersive continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities or flexible, distance-learning postgraduate programmes, our teaching is grounded in practice and designed to make a lasting difference in children's lives.

Our training is accredited by CPDUK and the University of Kent.

We have worked in close collaboration with national and international partners, including the NSPCC's Childline, the NHS, the Home Office, Kent and other police forces, Cafcass, A21, ECPAT, and the Lawn Tennis Association. This ensures that our training remains practical, current, and impactful.

The Centre is a proud recipient of multiple awards, including:

- British Education Research Association (BERA) Award (2021)
- University of Kent's Public Engagement Award (2022)
- Kent Police's Strategic Prevention Head of Command Award (2023)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC): Runner Up for 'Outstanding Societal Impact Prize 2024'
- Home Office (JSaRC) Academic Innovation Award – Commendation (2025)



Simulation-based CPD

Join a global community committed to advancing child protection through critical thinking, innovation, and applied learning.

Immersive CPD Training

Learn by doing. Improve practice where it matters most.

Step into realistic safeguarding scenarios and develop the confidence, skill and critical thinking needed to make effective decisions in complex child protection situations.

Why simulation-based learning?

- Practise decision-making in a safe, controlled environment
- Build confidence in high-risk, emotionally complex situations
- Strengthen critical thinking and reflective practice
- Explore multiple perspectives; including the voice of the child

What makes the Centre for Child Protection different?

Our simulations are:

- Research-informed and evidence-based
- Co-produced with sector partners (eg NHS, Home Office, NSPCC, Cafcass)
- Used across health, policing, education and social care
- Designed to create lasting behavioural change, not just knowledge gain
- Accredited by CPDUK

Training options

Workshops (half or full day)

Interactive, facilitated sessions using live simulations

Workshop and licence

Continue learning beyond the session and use simulations in your organisation

Train the trainer

Build internal capability and deliver your own safeguarding training

// The simulation was very realistic. Anyone working with children and their families would benefit from this. //

Training delegate, Crossing the Line
May 2026





Our simulations include:

- Rosie series – neglect, home visits, multi-agency working, voice of the child and courtroom skills
- Crossing the Line – child criminal exploitation
- Robyn and Molly – trauma-informed practice for police
- Lottie and Zak – online safety, grooming and exploitation
- Maryam and Joe – radicalisation, extremism and Prevent

Impact

Thousands of professionals across more than 90 countries have engaged with our simulation-based learning, strengthening practice, confidence and outcomes for children and young people.

// **Informative, interactive and immersive training which was thoroughly enjoyed. The family felt real, like one that would be part of a social worker's case allocation.** //

Training Delegate, Rosie 2
January 2026

Standalone Postgraduate Modules (CPD Route)

Advance your expertise on your terms

Flexible, Master's-level standalone modules designed for working professionals to help you deepen your knowledge and apply learning directly to practice.

Why choose a standalone module?

- 10-week fully online study
- 20 Master's credits per module
- Designed to fit around full-time work
- Selected modules can contribute towards a PGCert, PGDip or MA in Advanced Child Protection

What you will gain

- Advanced understanding of child protection practice and policy
- Stronger analytical and reflective skills
- Confidence in complex decision-making
- Learning that translates immediately into your role

Modules contributing towards postgraduate qualifications

Policy and practice

- UK child protection policy and multi-agency working: Legal frameworks and inter-agency practice
- Assessment, observation and decision-making: Strengthening professional judgement in complex cases

Understanding risk and harm

- Child abuse: Historical and contemporary perspectives: Evolving understandings of abuse and protection
- Supporting the diverse needs of children and families: Inclusive, intersectional approaches to safeguarding

Advanced Practice

- Organisational dynamics in child protection: Navigating workplace culture and decision-making
- Research methodologies: Developing critical research and evaluation skills

Global Perspectives

- International child protection practice: Comparing global systems, policies and interventions

Specialist Standalone Modules (CPD Only)

Designed for professionals seeking focused, high-impact learning without committing to a full postgraduate qualification:

- Child protection in health care: Safeguarding responsibilities in clinical settings
- Safeguarding children from exploitation: Identifying and responding to sexual and criminal exploitation

What makes the Centre for Child Protection unique

Our programmes integrate research, professional practice and immersive simulation-based learning, bringing the voice of the child into every stage of learning.

Progression

Start with a single module or build towards a postgraduate qualification in Advanced Child Protection (where applicable).

Ready to take the next step?

Find out more about our CPD training, postgraduate study and upcoming events: ccp@kent.ac.uk

Testimonial

// Completing the standalone module in safeguarding children has significantly enhanced my knowledge, confidence and professional practice. It has allowed me to study literature, increase a more evidenced-based approach as well as critically evaluating a theoretical systems approach to better understand complex interactions and wider organisational systems in safeguarding practice. I especially enjoyed collaborating with colleagues and international students giving a depth of perspectives in safeguarding children. //

Safeguarding Lead in an NHS Trust (2026)



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kent.ac.uk/school-of-social-sciences/centre-for-child-protection

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